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REPORT ON POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 1984-1985 AND EXAMINATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1986-1987 WITH PROJECTIONS UP TO 1995

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that the World Population Plan of Action(WPPA), among other things, urged developing countries to consider adopting policies aimed at (i) achieving a low level of birth and death rates consistent with the goal of reducing the annual growth rate to about 2 per cent by 1985, raising the life expectancy at birth to at least 50 years by 1985 and, lowering infant mortality rate to at the most 120 per 1000 livebirths by 1985; (ii) eliminating the undesirable consequences of excessive rural-urban migration; (iii) facilitating voluntary international movements; and, (iv) taking into account the implications of changing numbers and proportions of youth, working age groups and the aged when formulating development policies and programmes.

2. At the Second African Population Conference held at Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) in January 1984, the ECA Secretariat in a review of the demographic situation in the region reported that these targets had not been met as at mid-1984. The ECA member States then adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA)1/. The 93 recommendations of the KPA served as the African input to the International Population Conference (ICP) in August 1984. The programme was fully endorsed by the 20th OAUSSummit of Heads of State and Government as an integral part of the African strategy for development.

3. This report outlines the implementation of activities of the secretariat in the field of population during the 1984-1985 biennium and presents the approved work programme for the 1986-1987 biennium in the light of these developments. Some proposals which will guide the content of the work programme for the 1988-1989 period are also presented.

4. For the 1984-1985 biennium, the activities of the secretariat in the field of population covered research and studies, national seminars, dissemination of information, advisory services, training and preparation of documents for meetings. As reported at the last conference, the UNFPA terminated resource allocation for infrastructure posts to the secretariat in the field of population effective ending of 1983. Three regular budget professional and one general service posts were made available to the secretariat effective beginning of 1984. The two professional posts that were frozen by UNFPA in 1980 have still not been absorbed into the regular budget. The secretariat was therefore unable to implement two of the projects scheduled for the 1984-1985 biennium. One of these was postponed and the second was partially implemented.2/

1/ See The Demographic Situation in Africa and future trends and the Annex in Report of the Second African Population Conference, Vol.1 (UNECA, Addis Ababa, 1984), ST/ECA/IOP/1, pp. 5-6 and Annex I, pp. 1-14.

2/ Programme element 2.7 on "Trends in subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization in Africa and their effects on agricultural/ industrial development" was postponed to 1986-87; programme element 1.4 on "Evaluation of population redistribution policies and programmes in selected African countries" was partially implemented.

II. PROGRESS REPORT, 1984-1985

A. Research and studies

5. In the framework of the approved work programme for the 1984-1985 biennium, the secretariat completed the following studies and reports:

(i) Demographic analysis and population trends

(a) Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries;

(b) Family formation, structure and fertility in selected African countries;

(c) Mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries;

(d) Interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries;

(e) Demographic handbook for Africa, 1982;

(ii) Population and development policies

(f) Assessement of population policies in socio-economic development in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania;

(g) Evaluation of population redistribution policies and programmes in selected African countries;

(h) The integration of population variables and policies in African development plans;

(i) Population trends and policies in ECA member States.

6. Besides the 1984-1985 work programme, the secretariat undertook a study on the "Fifth population inquiry among governments: ECA member States perceptions and policies on demographic trends in relation to development as of 1982". This study was based on an analysis of the responses by ECA member States from the United Nations Fifth Population Inquiry among Governments. It will be recalled that the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA), among other things, recommended that monitoring of population trends and policies should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system beginning in 1977.3/

3/ Report of the UN World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (UN Publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3) part one, Chapter 1, para. 107.

B. National Seminars

7. The secretariat assisted member States on request in the organization of national seminars in Burundi, Chad, Tanzania and Uganda. For the national seminar in Burundi, the secretariat contributed a paper on population policies and development in Africa. In a similar meeting for Chad, the secretariat participated both by assisting in the preparations for the seminar, the conduct of the meeting and in the publication of the final report.

C. Activities in the Area of Information and Exchange

8. During the biennium the establishment of Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa) proposed during 1982-1983 became effective. POPIN-Africa subsumed the former population information and clearing house activities of the secretariat. Details of the dissemination of information and population activities undertaken under the new unit are contained in a separate report on the progress of Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa).

9. It is pertinent to observe however that as planned, issues of African Population Newsletter (Nos. 46, 47, 48 and 49) were published as well as two issues of POPINDEX and one issue of African Population Studies Series (No. 8) on the subject of Mortality. The planned POPIN-AFRICA training seminar was reformulated and held as well as a POPIN-AFRICA review meeting.

D. Advisory Services

10. The secretariat continued to provide assistance on analysis of demographic data (e.g. questionnaire design, tabulation programme, demographic data evaluation, etc.) to member States on request. Such requests were received from Sao Tome and Principe, Mauritius, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea. For Mauritius, there was a census analysis and on the job training of analysts.

11. Advisory services were also rendered to member States in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies in the integration of population variables in development planning and in evaluation of family planning programmes. Burundi, Kenya, U.R. of Tanzania and Zimbabwe received such services. In the case of Kenya, there was a middle level training for Statistical Clerks in the Ministry of Health.

12. The Co-ordinating unit of POPIN-AFRICA provided advisory services to the Arab League in Tunis (Tunisia) on the feasibility of establishing PAN-ARAB Population Information Network (POPIN).

E. Meetings, Conferences, Expert Groups and Seminars

(1) Second African Population Conference, Arusha (U.R. of Tanzania), January 1984.

(2) RIPS Governing Council meeting, Accra (Ghana), February 1984.

(3) Council of Plenipotentiaries, North African MULPOC Tangiers (Morocco), March 1984.

(4) International Conference on Population, Mexico City (Mexico), August 1984.

(5) POPIN Advisory Committee, Mexico City (Mexico), August 1984.

(6) Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, New York (USA), October 1984.

(7) United Nations Expert Group meeting on comparative Analysis of WFS data, New York (USA), October 1984.

(8) Regional Training Workshop on Techniques of Analysis of WFS Survey data from African countries, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), November/December 1984.

(9) RIPS Advisory Board on Studies and Research meeting, Accra (Ghana), November 1984.

(10) POPIN-AFRICA review meeting, Addis Ababa (Ethipia), December 1984.

(11) Expert Group Meeting on the Manual for Integrating Population variables into Development Planning, New York (USA), February-March 1985.

(12) Population Commission, New York (USA), February-March 1985.

(13) Second Conference of Vice Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, Mbabane (Swaziland), February 1985.

(14) Council of Plenipotentiaries, North Africa MULPOC, Tangiers (Morocco), March 1985.

(15) RIPS Governing Council Meeting, Accra (Ghana), June 1985.

(16) Seminar for High Government Officials on Population and Development Berlin (W. Germany) June, 1985.

(17) Regional Training Workshop on Demographic Estimates and Projections In Africa, Accra (Ghana), July 1985.

(18) IFORD Governing Council meeting, Yaounde (Cameroon), July 1985

(19) Seminar on Migration and Regional Development in Africa, Accra (Ghana), August 1985.

F. Documents Submitted to Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

(1) Demographic Situation in Africa (E/ECA/POP/2).

(2) A Study of Migration from the Maghreb to West European Countries: Progress Report.

(3) Background Paper for POPIN-AFRICA review meeting (ECA/PD/WP/1984/15).

(4) Africa: Economic Crisis and Population Problems (ECA/AAU(ED/85/12).

(5) The Methodology and Data for National Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/6).

(6) The Methodology and Data for Subnational Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/

(7) The Methodology and Data for Sectoral Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10)

(8) Projecting School Enrolment (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10b).

(9) Population Projections in Housing Planning (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10c)

(10) Population Projections in Health Planning (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10d)

(11) The Scope and Nature of Internal Migration Data in African Censuses and Surveys - 1970 and 1980 Rounds.

(12) Methods in Regional, Urban and Rural Population Projections.

G. Training and Research

(a) Training and Research

13. The two institutes, the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD) continued to provide facilities for the training of demographers for English and French-speaking African countries respectively. Although the institutes have been in existence for the past eleven years, the need for demographers is still strong in the African countries. Both the ECA Conference of Ministers meetings in Addis Ababa in May 1984 and April 1985, adopted resolutions calling for continued support to be given to RIPS and IFORD by the African member countries and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

(b) Advisory Board on Studies and Research

14. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research of IFORD met in April and approved changes to the training programme. These concerned the content of courses in demographic analysis and the introduction of new courses. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research of RIPS met in November 1984. It approved the replacement of Graduate Diploma in Population Studies with a 12-month Master of Arts course and the introduction of an M.Phil. course by research. The Master of Arts course has now been approved by the Univeristy.

(c) Governing Council

15. The Governing Council of IFORD met in November 1983 and July 1985 and that of RIPS in February 1984 and June 1985. Both bodies reviewed the training and research activities of the two institutes, examined their financial situation and budgets and approved schemes of contributions for their member countries. In the case of IFORD contributions of a fixed equal amount was set for each member country. In the case of RIPS the UN scale of assessment was used in calculating individual member country contributions.

(d) Financial Situation

16. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) continued to be the major source of funding for the institutes. However the general principles adopted by the 13th session of the Governing Council of UNFPA in June 1983, foresees greater financial autonomy for the institutes towards the end of the period 1984-1987. Consequently UNFPA reduced its funding level in 1984. This reduction coupled with the non-payment of contributions by African countries has put the future of the two institutes at stake.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK 1986-1989

A. Programme Objectives

17. This programme has three sub-programmes whose respective objectives during the plan period 1986-1989 will be as follows:

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POPULATION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

18. The objectives of this subprogramme are to assist Governments of member countries in the formulation and implementation of effective population policies and in the integration of population variables into development planning; to promote consideration in the development planning process of the interactions between economic and social development issues and such issues as population structure, movements and changes.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

19. The objectives of this subprogramme are to develop, test and apply techniques of demographic research within the context of socio-economic development in Africa and to study and evaluate factors responsible for demographic trends and structural changes, especially those factors related to the social and economic situation and national characteristics.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH

20. The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Governments in the training of personnel for work in population and in the use of the research facilities and advisory services.

B. Work Programme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POPULATION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1.1 Technical assistance to countries and territories

Final Output:

21. Advisory services to member States in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies in the integration of population variables in development planning and in evaluation of family planning programmes (two countries in 1986 and two countries in 1987).

1.2 Assessment of population policies in socio-economic development planning in Africa

Final Outputs:

22. (i) Technical publication on relevant legislative instruments affecting the formulation and implementation of population policies in African countries (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) Technical publication on African experience in the implementation of population policies and programmes (fourth quarter 1987).

1.3 Evaluation of the demographic impact of population programmes in African countries

Final Outputs:

23. (i) Report to inter-governmental expert group meeting on integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa on:

(a) Factors influencing current levels of usage of family planning services in selected countries (fourth quarter 1987);

(b) Comparative evaluation of the impact of maternal and child-health/family planning services in African countries with national programmes to reduce fertility (fourth quarter 1987);

(c) Implications for future demand for family planning services of world fertility survey results on current use, willingness to use family planning methods and in increasing size of female population of reproductive ages (fourth quarter 1987).

(ii) Technical publication on methodological problems of evaluating integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa (fourth quarter 1987).

(iii) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental expert group meeting on integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa (fourth quarter, 1987).

1.4 Integration of population variables and policies in development plans

Final Outputs:

24. (i) Technical publication: The integration of population and related policies in sectoral development plans in selected African countries (fourth quarter 1987).

(ii) Substantive servicing of one session of intergovernmental meeting on a manual and guidelines on the integration of population variables in development plans (fourth quarter 1986).

(iii) Substantive servicing of national seminars on the integration of population variables in development planning (one seminar per year).

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme elements:

2.1 Advisory services to countries on census and survey data analysis

25. (i) Advisory services to member States, on request, in evaluating and analysing data from population censuses, surveys and vital registration systems (two countries in 1986 and two in 1987) and providing on-the-job training for nationals in demographic analysis (two countries in 1986 and two in 1987);

(ii) Substantive servicing of two middle level national training workshops in demographic analysis for staff of census offices and ministries of health, education, economic planning, labour and social services (one each year);

(iii) Technical publication on comparative evaluation and analysis of the 1980s round of censuses (fourth quarter 1987).

2.2 Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in African countries.

Final Output:

26. Report to the fifth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on Fertility Levels, Patterns, Differentials and Trends in African Countries (first quarter 1987).

2.3 Family formation, structure and fertility in selected African countries.

Final Outputs:

27. (i) Technical publication: The changing role of women and fertility in African countries (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) The impact of changing patterns of family formation and structure in Africa on fertility trends in selected African countries (fourth quarter 1987).

2.4 Mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries.

Final Output:

28. Report to the Fifth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries (first quarter 1987).

2.5 Interrelationship among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries.

Final Output:

29. Technical publication: Comparative study of trends in infant and childhood mortality and their implications for population growth in African countries (third quarter 1987).

2.6 Population projections including evaluation, adjustment and analysis of demographic data for the African region

Final Outputs:

30. (i) Demographic and related socio-economic data sheets for the ECA member States (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) Estimates and projections of African population trends as assessed in 1986 (second quarter 1987).

2.7 Trends in subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization in Africa and their effects on agricultural and industrial development

Final Output:

31. Report to the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on analysis of levels, trends and subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization and their effects on agricultural and industrial development in the African region.

2.8 Population information and clearing house services

Final Outputs:

32. (i) Technical publications: (a) African Population Newsletter (two issues per year); (b) African Population Studies Series (One issue 1987); (c) Bibliographies on population: POPIN-Africa Index (one issue per year); (d) POPIN-Africa Bulletin (one issue per year); (e) Directory of African Demographers (one issue 1987).

(ii) Substantive servicing of one training workshop per year on population information and documentation;

(iii) Substantive servicing of one POPIN-Africa Advisory meeting (1986).

2.9 International migration and its effect on the economies of African countries

Final Outputs:

33. (i) Report to the meeting of the North African MULPOC on the consequences of migration from the Maghreb to West European countries (first quarter 1987);

(ii) Technical publication: International migratory flows in African countries (Third quarter 1987).

SUBPROGRAMME 3. REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme elements:

3.1 Technical support to the substantive and administrative activities of the regional institutes for population studies

Final Outputs:

34. (i) Identification and selection of about 80 candidates for UNFPA fellowships and demographic training at RIPS and IFORD (40 each in 1986 and 1987);

(ii)) Backstopping, on request, training, research, seminars and other activities of IFORD, RIPS and the Sahel Institute (one mission to each institute per year);

(iii) Substantive servicing of the meeting of the Advisory Boards of RIPS and IFORD (one for each, every two years) and the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD (one for each in 1986);

(iv) Report to the Governing Council on Draft Budget requirements for UNFPA funding and contributions from the member States (one for each institute in 1986). Disbursement of resources in collaboration with the Institutes.

(v) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the activities and progress of RIPS and IFORD.

(vi) Lecture missions to the East African Statistical Training Centre (one in 1986 and one in 1987) and to other national institutions on request.

V.. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME UP TO 1995

35. For the 1988-1995 period, activities of the secretariat in the field of population will still cover the three sub-programmes and focus on research/studies, national seminars, dissemination of information, advisory services, training and preparation of documents for meetings.

36. However, the projected focus of the work programme will derive from the progress which will then have been achieved in the region towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA), the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA) and the International Conference on Population (ICP). Based on studies of fertility and mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in the member States undertaken by the secretariat during the 1984-1985 biennium, the estimated annual growth rate of the regional population of 3 per cent as at mid-1985 was still far short of the target set by the WPPA; so also was the regional estimate of infant mortality rate. Therefore it will be desirable for the secretariat to undertake studies on the correlates of declines of fertility and mortality (particularly infant and childhood mortality) during the 1988-1995 biennium. This will be accomplished through the media of the advisory services of the secretariat which would then ensure the integration of findings from such studies into the development plans of the member States besides assisting these member States in formulating and implementing appropriate population policies. On this issue of assisting member States to formulate population policies, it will be desirable during the 1988-1995 biennium to organize a study tour for African planners, demographers and policy makers to enable them observe some relatively successful population policies and programmes either in Latin America or Asian countries.

37. In this regard, other related studies by the secretariat would include (i) fertility and mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in the member States; (ii) interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility, (iii) the impact of national maternal and child-health and family planning (MCH/FP) programmes on fertility in the member States. All these studies will be aimed at monitoring the impact of the national MCH/FP programmes in the member States consistent with one of the desiderata of the WPPA namely that the UN family should undertake monitoring of population trends by region on a biennial basis. In this regard, an intergovernmental expert group will also be organized by the secretariat on the techniques of evaluating MCH/FP programmes in the member States.

38. The 93 recommendations of the KPA covered nine key population areas namely population and development strategy and policy, fertility and family planning, morbidity and mortality, urbanization and migration, changing role of women in the development process, children and youth, population data collection/analysis, training/research, population information, community involvement and role of private and non-governmental organizations. In the area of data collection/analysis/training/research, the advisory services of the secretariat to member States will, during the 1988-1995 period, emphasize more intensive analysis of data from the 1980 census round on (i) headship rates; (ii) school attendance and highest school level attained; (iii) migration questions on place of birth, duration of residence, place of usual residence, place of previous residence. In particular, place of birth statistics in all available censuses for every member State will be analysed and reanalysed more carefully through the media of advisory services in order to provide data on volume and trends of immigrant stock. Such data will be updated and provided by the secretariat. In this connection, the two approaches proposed by the UNESCO committee set up for the improvement of existing techniques for indirect measurement of international migration (i.e. residence of surviving children and of surviving siblings) will be experimented within the data constraints of the censuses of the member States.

39. Based on the findings from such analyses, the secretariat will be better disposed to undertake subnational and sectoral (particularly education, housing and labour force) population projections for the member States during the 1988-period. This will be consistent with the KPA's recommendation that the integration of population variables in development planning should be extended to subregional and district levels in each member State. Both of these types of population projections require detailed data on internal migration.

40. With respect to the causes and consequences of international migration in the region, the case of each subregion will be treated according to its particular circumstances. In the North, an indepth analysis of relevant data for the non-Maghreb countries will be undertaken during the 1988-1995 period alongside with the examination of the past, present and future migration situation between the Maghreb and West European countries during the 1986-1987 biennium so as to guide the future migration policy in the subregion. In the West, the joint World Bank and OECD study on the causes and consequences of migration in 9 member States within the subregion will be replicated for the remaining 7 member States. The results of both studies will be integrated. In the South, the secretariat will undertake a study of the migratory labour system in the subregion. For the East,

the secretariat will initiate studies on the causes and consequences of labour migration in the subregion. Admittedly, resource constraints may permit the implementation of only one of these four subregional migration studies.

41. In addition to the study on the causes and consequences of international migration, the secretariat will, during the period undertake a study of estimates of net international migration (using indirect methods such as census and life table survival ratios) from the 1970 and 1980 census rounds. Such estimates will improve the preparation by the secretariat of demographic estimates and projections for the member States during the 1988-1995 period.

42. Still in the area of migration, the secretariat will undertake studies on the dynamics of city growth in the member States so as to adduce evidence for ascertaining which is the more important determinant of city growth in the member States - natural increase or net migration. Again such findings will be disseminated to member States and will guide the formulation of pertinent population policies in the member States.

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TRAINING OF DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SCIENTISTS IN AFRICA

TRAINING OF DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SCIENTISTS IN AFRICA

I. Introduction

Lack of trained manpower to man the existing documentation and information centres in Africa is being cited as a stumbling block in the development of information and documentation services in Africa. The type of professional training offered in Africa is at diploma and certificate level in the field of library science. No formal courses in information and documentation is offered in most schools which offer library studies programme.

The shortage of specialised local manpower and training facilities are particularly striking obstacles to the rapid development and effectiveness of information services in Africa. This situation is greatly affected by the general absence of systematic plans for organised training of information personnel and the rather low status given by governments in Africa to librarianship, documentation and information science. Support by governments in Africa is needed in terms of strengthening national information and documentation capabilities from which they would all benefit.

At present, in many countries, information services remain under staffed and highly dependent on expatriate personnel. Further, local personnel tend to be trained through fellowships granted by external donors which is hardly sufficient to close the gap between supply and demand in the information field. In addition, such fellowships are, in general, granted for in-service training only, and seldom for training within the two regions. The availability of training programmes initial qualifications or to extend their knowledge in the field of information science and documentation is limited. Where training exists, it is mainly traditional and oriented towards librarianship at the expense of more modern information service skills e.g. on-line retrieval, system's management, subject specialisation etc. The problems stated, strongly suggest that the governments of African countries should examine as a matter of urgency the question of supply of professional information and documentation personnel.

Nevertheless, it appears that while the shortage of qualified staff is unanimously recognised, lack of funds prevent the governments from giving the required assistance in this area. In addition, low salaries and poor status prevent the recruitment of enough qualified people. As a result, the possibilities of setting up local basic courses in information

science vary from country to country with some countries with an edge over others. In view of such conditions, the regionalisation of training courses seems to be a sensible solution.

It appears therefore that the best solution to the problem of manpower training will be to put the limited available resources into strengthening existing regional facilities in Africa, and to ensure that in formulating curricula, due attention is paid to Africa's needs and to technological changes. This approach will address the supply of local manpower. Regional schools of information and documentation sciences are probably the best solution to the needs of Africa. Despite the disadvantages of a regional versus a national school, there is not likely to be any real possibility of each country having its own school. Another danger of a national school might be the eventual oversupply of professionals within a decade.

II. Status of training of documentation and information scientists in Africa

There exist various schools in Africa offering courses in librarianship. As already stated, the type of professional training offered in Africa is mainly at diploma and certificate level in the field of library studies. No formal courses in information and documentation is offered in such schools.

Present training institutions

The following countries offer courses at diploma, certificate or degree levels in Africa. Readers should note that the listed countries, are the only ones known to offer courses which are open to other countries. Some institutions may not have been included but they do offer courses in Library, Information or Documentation Studies. It should therefore be understood that the listed institutions are only for showing a picture of the existing situation in Africa and should not be taken as comprehensive.

(i) Botswana

The University of Botswana is offering courses in Library Studies at diploma and certificate levels. Introductory courses in Information Sciences and Documentation are presently given but only on part-time basis. Plans are underway to start post-graduate studies in Information and Library Studies in 1986.

(ii) Algeria

It is known that some universities in Algeria give courses in Information Sciences. It is also known that

Algerian Government has been providing fellowships to African countries for studies in Algeria. However, at the moment we have scanty information on the level, duration and the numbers involved. Detailed information is being compiled by PADIC and will be made available to member States at a later date.

(iii) Uganda

For a long-time now since the days of the East African Community, Makerere University has been offering courses in Library Studies, at the East African School of Librarianship, at undergraduate diploma and certificate level. Presently the school is offering courses at post graduate diploma level, and some elements of information sciences and documentation have been included in their curriculum.

(iv) Kenya

Kenya is offering courses in Library and Archival Studies at the Kenya Polytechnic in Nairobi. These courses are being offered at certificate level only.

Latest development

The Kenya government has established the Moi University as the country's second University. In this University, a faculty of Information Sciences has been created and it will offer courses at Bachelor of Science level.

(v) Tanzania

The Tanzania Library Services offers Library Courses at certificate level. Plans are underway to create a library and information studies school at the Univeristy of Dar-es-Salaam.

(iv) Ghana

Ghana has been and still runs a regional school in Library and Archival studies at the University of Legon. Courses are offered at postgraduate, and undergraduate diploma and certificate level. The school was established with assistance from UNESCO.

(vii) Sudan

In the Sudan a two-year elementary courses in Library studies is being offered at the University of Khartoum. At Omdurman Islamic University, Library studies is offered at the Bachelors degree level.

(viii) Senegal

Courses in Information Science and Documentation are offered at diploma level, at the University of Dakar in Senegal.

(ix) Zambia

In Zambia studies in Library Science are offered at the University of Zambia at diploma and Bachelors degree level, and the Kindele Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe at certificate level.

(x) Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe plans to establish a library studies school. However, presently library studies is given at the Harare Polytechnic at diploma and certificate level.

(xi) Morocco

Morocco also runs courses in Information Science at, Rabat. It may also be noted that Morocco has established and runs a well equipped documentation centre which could serve as a practical training centre. Details of training facilities in Morocco also being compiled by PADIS.

(xii) Tunisia and Egypt

Like Morocco, Tunisia has an Information Science School situated in Tunis. Full details of courses being offered in Tunisia, i.e. duration, level of training etc. are being compiled. Egypt also has institutions offering courses in Information Sciences, whose details PADIS is compiling.

III. Latest developments in training of documentation and information scientists in Africa

One of the constraints which has been discussed in this paper is the lack of qualified information professionals in Africa. This problem is being maximized by the new technologies and the key role which they play in modern information services. These advanced information technologies, especially in their present form, have been less than user friendly and the information professional thus tends to become an important source of knowledge in the user's information search. However, the type of training institutions that exist in Africa now do not meet the above challenge in terms of production of competent information and documentation scientists. Coupled with the complexity of information these professionals have to deal with, it has led to a rethinking on the part of international organizations to establish full-fledged training institutions for documentation and information scientists in Africa.

The establishment of an African Regional Centre for Information Science (AFRIC)

To alleviate the problem of lack of trained documentation and information scientists in Africa, UNESCO, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and other organizations in co-operation with the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, are establishing a regional centre for information science. Plans to have this school operational are quite advanced, and the curriculum has been finalised. Courses at this Centre will be offered at the Masters degree level, and will inter-alia cover the following.

(i) Foundation and methods of Information Science.

(ii) Design of Information Systems.

(iii) Information Sources and Systems.

(iv) Sectional/Subject-oriented Information Sources and Systems.

(v) Communication and utilization of information.

(vi) Information Management and Economics.

(vii) Information Systems and Technologies. (For details consult the curriculum manual from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

This regional centre is being established primarily for the English speaking West Africa. A similar centre is being planned at the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the Eastern and Southern African countries.

IV. Efforts of United Nations Bodies and other international organizations in training of documentation and information scientists in Africa

(a) UNECA

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, through the Pan African Documentation and Information System is also playing a part in training of documentation and information scientists in Africa. PADIS was created by the ECA to facilitate development information exchange among ECA member States. The training that is offered by PADIS, aims at developing and coordinating a network of facilities capable of meeting the national requirements of Africa for technically competent information and documentation personnel who would collect, process, store and disseminate development information required for economic and social development planning.

The PADIS training programme is to ensure that Africa has a supply of trained personnel in PADIS-DEVSIS methodologies to facilitate participation of the African countries in PADIS through:

(i) producing an increased number of trained documentation personnel, and,

(ii) improving and maintaining the quality of documentation and information personnel already in service.

Type of training

The type of training given under this programme is dependent on the needs of each country, institution or a group of countries or institutions. Requests for specific training programmes are dealt with on individual basis.

However, PADIS offers the following courses and seminars which we feel help to meet best specific needs.

(1) Short full-time courses, with duration from one week to four weeks to provide intensive preparation for e.g. how to index using PADIS-DEVSIS methodologies or for a specialised group e.g. computer programmers.

(2) Technique or problem oriented workshops of several days to four weeks duration to develop very specific competencies or skills in some aspects of documentation centre management, system development etc.

(3) Assignment of PADIS staff on a temporary basis to national documentation centres to assist in In-Service Training Programme.

(4) Senior level seminars for top administration of documentation centres to up date them on PADIS-DEVSIS methodologies, adminstration etc.

(5) Training courses of 7 to 14 days in length for groups of information and documentation personnel to orient them to new ideas, approaches in regard to processing development information in line with PADIS-DEVSIS standards.

(6) Short seminars to provide a forum for persons with common professional interests, enabling them to exchange experiences, secure new concepts, learn of significant achievements standards of professional conduct.

Content

PADIS Training Programme normally covers the following broad areas of study:

1) PADIS Methodologies

2) Data Processing techniques

3) Data base management

4) Interactive information systems

5) Regional co-operation in information work

6) Microfilming and Reprography

7) How to participate in PADIS without computerisation in the first instance

8) Computerised documentation

9) User needs and PADIS systems etc.

Each of the mentioned areas of study represents a field of central importance in which significant developments are taking place and in which PADIS is active. Detailed programmes of studies based on the identified areas of study are normally designed to take account of the needs and backgrounds of those selected for participation in the activities of PADIS Training Programme.

(b) UNESCO

The United Nations Educational Scientific and cultural organization through its General Information Programme, continues to assist in the training of Africans in Information and Documentation. It has continued to fund, courses, seminars and workshops, and provided scholarships and fellowships for studies in information and documentation abroad. UNESCO, has also been instrumental in funding regional library schools like the one in the University of Legon in Ghana, and the East African School of Librarianship in Makerere, Uganda.

(c) Other organizations

Other organizations like the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), continue to provide fellowships and scholarships for studies in information and documentation. These also provide funds for running of seminars, courses, workshops in the field of documentation.

Concluding Remarks

For Africa, with meager resources regional schools like the one being established in the University of Ibadan are probably the best solution to the needs of Africa. With the increasing information technology for processing and retrieving of

information, Africa needs trained people in Documentation and Information Science, and the schools being set up in Ibadan and Addis Ababa Universities should be given great support by the African countries.

NOTE: A list of institutions offering Library and Information courses is being compiled by PADIS and will be published during 1980 and sent to the participants to this meeting. This list will be able to give up to date information on the type of courses being offered, duration, admission requirements, etc.

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ASSOCIATION OF DOCUMENTATION, INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENTISTS IN AFRICA

Association of Documentation, Information and Library Scientists in Africa

1. Introduction

Associations from time immemorial are used primarily for taking care of the interests of their members. These bind people together, and facilitate collective actions on the part of their members.

In Africa today, various groups of people have come together to form associations primarily for the welfare of their members. However, in so far as associations for documentalists, Information and Library Scientists are concerned, very little activity has taken place. Librarians all over Africa have formed subregional associations, like the "Standing Conference of the Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians, which meets at specific scheduled periods to discuss matters of common interests. However, such subregional associations of Librarians have not been very effective because of their loosely drawn up constitutions, and the status of Librarianship as a profession in many African countries.

Documentation and Information sciences are just developing in Africa and given the interest that librarians and decision makers in Africa are beginning to show in these two new disciplines one sees a chance for an association of Documentation, information and Library scientists making a contribution to the development of this professions and Africa in general.

1.1 A need for an Association of Documentation Information and Library Scientists in Africa

One of the major constraints which affects the flow of information in Africa, is the lack of qualified information professionals. On the other hand, it appears that there has been a long-run tendency to ignore the need for educational programmes for Librarians, Documentations and Information Scientists. On the other hand, the problem appears to have been complicated by the new technologies and the key role which they play in modern information services. These advanced information technologies, especially in their present form, have been less than user friendly and the information professional thus tend to become an important source of knowledge in the user's information search.

As the importance of information sources for development purposes are becoming generally recognized in society, the need for user education will expand accordingly. Moreover the already mentioned introduction of information technologies also tend to raise the requirements for user education. This vital aspect of the promotion of information flow appears to be largely ignored in Africa, and this hampers the effective information flow.

To alleviate the problems of effective information flow in Africa, and to sensitize the policy and decision makers on the importance of information in national development an association of documentation, information and library scientists is necessary in Africa.

1.2 PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF AN ASSOCITION OF DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENTISTS IN AFRICA

(a) Creating an awareness of the importance of information for development

One of the major constraints to effective information flow in Africa is the low priority given to information and documentation programmes on the part of decision and policy makers. Once formed, such association will be required to use its organs to create an awareness of the importance of information in development.

(b) Creation of motivation to use available information

A key constraint to an effective information flow in Africa is lack of motivation to use available information. Such lack of motivation may arise from inadequate awareness of the sources, but it may equally often arise from the cumbersome way in which information services may function.

The absence of motivation to use available information may also emerge a result of a concommitant lack of economic incentives. For instance when no economic incentives exist to implement the information available in technical standards regarding quality levels (i.e. products of sub-standard quality level can be sold), this information will naturally not be utilized. The proposed association should take the reponsibility of motivating people in Africa to use available information for planning and decision making. Such motivation should take a form of public campaigns.

(c) To assist in the advancement of Information Sciences, Documentation and Librarianship as useful professions

The above disciplines are given very low status by governments in Africa as professions, partly because of the ignorance of the services that these professions can offer and partly because of the lack of training facilities. It will therefore be encumbent upon the association being proposed to advance the above professions in Africa, by carrying out popularization work, e.g. through demonstrations by the organization e.g. shows, and public meetings in various parts of Africa. Such activities by the association could help advance the importance of these professions and thus improve their status rating in Africa.

(d) Assist indigenous Information Systems like PADIS to reach National level

Various information systems are being created in Africa, and of mention is the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS). PADIS has been created by the ECA to facilitate development information exchange among ECA member States. An association like the one being proposed will therefore ensure that the concepts and methodologies of PADIS reach the national level, so that all African countries can be able to participate in PADIS. Such an association will also ensure harmonization of information systems in Africa.

(e) Ensuring Standardization and Compatibility

In order that as many countries as possible can participate in any information system, like PADIS, standards, and compabilities must be kept. The proposed association will be able to provide the forum, for discussing such issues, and drawing up standards to ensure compatibility.

(f) Improving and maintaining the quality of documentation, Information and Library Personnel

The above disciplines are relatively new, and many African countries do not have the schemes of service of such personnel. The proposed association will be able to draw up schemes of service for such personnel, and monitor the development of this profession, so that the quality of these personnel is maintained.

(g) Encouraging the establishment of National Associations

Many African countries do not have national associations of documentation information and library personnel. It will therefore be the responsibility of the proposed association to encourage member States to create national associations. The establishment of national associations will enable the integration of information services at national level. It will also assist in establishing a regular dialogue between the generators of information and user institutions and individuals in individual countries. National associations therefore can assist in implementing decisions taken by the proposed regional association.

1.3 Headquarters

The headquarters of such an association shall be provisionally located at the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), in the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

1.4 Membership

The association shall be composed of ordinary, honorary and institutional members.

(a) Ordinary Members

Professional, information, documentation or library personnel, African and non-African who work or have worked as information documentation or library personnel in Africa may be admitted as ordinary members.

(b) Honorary members

Persons of outstanding distinction in the field of information, documentation and library sciences who have rendered valuable services to Africa, may be admitted as honorary members.

(c) Institutional members

Institutions such as national library and documentation centres, and international associations such as Federation of International Documentation (FID), and International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and agencies operating in Africa, African Banks, African national Institutes and academies of Science will be eligible as institutional members.

Other details on the operation of such an association to be worked out once formed.